

Message Text

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FOR: PGM/RC:VOA:CINCPAC FOR ICA ADVISOR

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION--ASEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

(1) SUARA KARYA, VOICE OF THE GOLKAR PARTY, IN AN AUGUST 8 EDITORIAL SAW THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AS PLAYING A "POSITIVE ROLE" IN THE INTEREST OF ALL DEVELOPING NATIONS AND AS A STEP IN "SOLVING THE PROBLEMS THAT BAR PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM."

(2) ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS MORE ECONOMIC THAN POLITICAL IN NATURE, SUARA KARYA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "WE WOULD BE NAIVE IF WE DID NOT SEE ITS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE PRESENTATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WAS IN ITSELF A POLITICAL MOVE..."

(3) THE INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS UNDER A THREE-COLUMN PAGE ONE-HEAD CARRIED COMMENTARY BY DR. LIE TEK TJENG, AN INDONESIAN
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EXPERT ONEAST ASIA AND DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RESEARCH, LOCATED IN JAKARTA.

(4) DR. LIE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "ASEAN CAN ALWAYS EXPECT MAXIMUM RESULTS IN ITS DIALOG WITH THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, ASEAN SHOULD NOT BE DISAPPOINTED IF THE RESULTS DO NOT REACH ITS EXPECTATIONS. THE RESULTS WILL REFLECT THE REALITY OF THE

RELATIONS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO SIDES."

(5) LIE SEES ASEAN AS REQUESTING "DAS SOLLEN" AND THE UNITED STATES RESPONDING WITH "DAS SEIN." HE THEN ADDS THAT "IN THE LONG RUN THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT NEGLECT ASEAN, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT STOPS TO CONSIDER ITS ROLE IN BALANCING THE GLOBAL POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION... THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT POSSIBLY WITHDRAW FROM THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION SINCE SUCH A MOVE WOULD LEAVE THE SOVIETS IN THE NUMBER ONE SLOT... THE UNITED STATES HAS NO DESIRE TO RULE THE WORLD... BUT NEITHER WOULD IT LET THE SOVIETS DO SO, INCLUDING THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION..."

(6)"... ALTHOUGH ASEAN HAS NO DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN A CRUSADE AGAINST COMMUNISM," HE ADDS, "IT ALSO DOES NOT WANT TO ACCEPT A COMMUNIST SYSTEM IN THE REGION. THAT IS WHY THE UNITED STATES REGARDS ASEAN AS ONE OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC ENTITIES, IN ADDITION TO JAPAN AND THE PRC, IT CAN RELY ON".

(7) LIE SEES JAPAN AND THE PRC FILLING "FUNCTIONAL ROLES", THE FORMER AS AN ECONOMIC POWER AND A LISTENING POST FOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND THE LATTER AS A MEANS FOR "TYING UP" 45 SOVIET DIVISIONS. ASEAN, HE ADDS, FILLS NO SUCH ROLE AND HENCE MUST WAIT FOR "U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ITS POTENTIAL."

(8) MOST MAJOR JAKARTA DAILIES AUGUST 8 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWS REPORTS OF A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA THAT THE U.S.- ASEAN CONFERENCE WAS "MORE POLITICAL IN NATURE" AND USEFUL AS "A FORUM FOR OBTAINING NOT ONLY THE OPINIONS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC." MOCHTAR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE CONFERENCE SERVED TO REMIND AMERICA IT MUST "NOT FORGET SOUTHEAST ASIA". HE ALSO WAS REPORTED AS SAYING ASEAN WELCOMES U.S. CAPITAL INVESTMENT AS WELL AS INCREASED TRADE.

(9) THE STORY WAS CARRIED BY THE MOSLEM PARTY PAPER PELITA UNDER THE HEADING "ASIAN-U.S. DIALOG GATHERS PUBLIC OPINION ON ASEAN", BY THE NATIONALISTIC DAILY MERDEKA UNDER THE HEAD, "ASEAN PROGRESSES", AND BY BERITA BUANA WHICH HEADED THE STORY, "ASEAN-U.S. DIALOGUE MUST BE SEEN IN ITS WIDER SCOPE".

(10) THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIA TIMES CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT: THE ARMED SERVICES DAILY ANGKATAN BERSENJATA PRINTED AN ANTARA WIRE STORY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S WELCOMING OF THE ASEAN DELEGATION. AND THE INDEPENDENT DAILY SINAR HARAPAN CARRIED NEWS REPORTS, PAGE 15, TWO-COLUMN HEAD, ON THE UPCOMING VISIT OF US. EXIMBANK PRESIDENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. ENDUSINFO.

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